

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

74-1250

~~MEMORANDUM FOR:~~ Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Management and Services

SUBJECT : Request for Access to Classified Information--
Mr. David Christian Walsh

REFERENCE : (a) Executive Order 11652, Section 12
(b)

STAT

1. Action Requested: Approval or disapproval of the request of Mr. David Christian Walsh for access as a historical researcher to classified OSS records in the current custody of the CIA.

2. Basic Data:

- a. Mr. Walsh, a student at Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland, has requested access to certain classified OSS records held by the CIA to assist him in research into special ordnance (especially small arms), field, and other equipment developed for or by the OSS, the results of which research may be the basis for a future book. He has no idea of the numbers or names of the documents he might wish to review, with one exception. He has received authorization from the Department of the Army for access to Army-originated records, classified through Secret, pertinent to his proposed study. The Army referred him to the CIA as the custodian of OSS operational records.
- b. This request stimulated the submission to the CIA Information Review Committee of a paper asking for a policy determination as to the qualifications required for approval as a historical researcher. On 31 March 1974, the Committee decided that historical researchers would be approved only if (a) they met all the requirements of Executive Order 11652 and the implementing National Security Council Directive and (b) they could demonstrate their qualifications as researchers by virtue of academic standing or previous publications.

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- c. In addition to there being some question as to whether Mr. Walsh's proposal for research is "clearly consistent with the interests of national security," as an undergraduate student he obviously lacks the academic credentials prescribed by the Committee and he has submitted no evidence of prior publications. Further, in the event of the disapproval of his request, it may be possible to meet his needs by having him define more precisely the type of documents he wishes to review and then routinely processing the documents as a mandatory request for declassification and release.

3. Recommendation: It is recommended that Mr. Walsh's request for access as a historical researcher to classified OSS documents be disapproved, with the understanding that an attempt will be made to service his request by declassification of the appropriate documents.

STAT


Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

APPROVED: _____

HDD/m+s


DISAPPROVED: _____

Distribution:

Orig. - Return to ISAS

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

2 - DDM&S 

ISAS:JS:slh
(8 April 1974)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

DD/HQ Registry
 File *Security 4*

SUBJECT: (Optional)

STAT

FROM:

C/ISAS

EXTENSION

NO.

STAT

DATE

8 April 1974

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. DDM&S

2. ~~Director of Central Intelligence~~

3. ~~DDM&S~~

4. C/ISAS

2. For approval.

Mr. Walsh, an undergraduate student, requested access to OSS records as a historical researcher. If the precedent were established that, upon application, undergraduate students would be granted this status, the Agency would be opening the floodgates. Consequently, with the approval of the CIA Information Review Committee, we have established basic qualifications for consideration as a historical researcher. Mr. Walsh does not meet these criteria, but we believe that it may be possible to satisfy his needs by declassifying and releasing selected documents bearing on his research. Insofar as we have been able to ascertain, other agencies have been very selective in approving such applications.


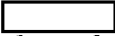
16 April 1974

AT

NOTE FOR: Mr. Blake



STAT

On 15 April 1974, I discussed this case with Mr.  and he indicated that the DD/M&S might sign off for the DCI--as he has done in the past.  states that the "criteria" was earlier established by the Management Committee, and implementation might appropriately be handled at the DD/M&S level. In fact, he proposes to formalize such a procedure, possibly considering delegation to C/ISAS.

STAT

In any case, this memo need not go to the DCI.



LJD

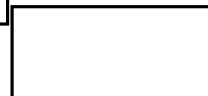
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Done



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16 APR 1974

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Approved For Release 2003/04/29 : CIA-RDP84-00780R006100120020-2

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
SECRET			
STAT OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	
1	Mr. 	4/8	
2	Mr. Blake		
3	Mr. Brownman.		
4			
5			
6			
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

1 to 2 and 3: A question was recently raised concerning the appropriateness of items being referred to the Management Committee. I feel ISAS similarly enjoys going to the DCI on routine items. Mr. Walsh does not meet the 2.b. criteria, and the request should be disapproved on that basis--without attempts to service his requests.

Att: DD/M&S 74-1250

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE